



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

MARCH – JUNE 2013



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Fish & Wildlife:

1-800-858-1549 • fw.ky.gov

Office hours: Mon. - Fri., 8 AM - 4:30 PM

Dr. Jonathan Gassett, Commissioner

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SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMISSIONER

Turkey hunting brings family and friends together at a wonderful time of the year.

Kentucky's woods and fields are greening up in April, wildflowers are blooming, and the days are lengthening. Who would want to miss being outside on a warm spring morning, when the turkeys are gobbling? It's a magical time that passes all too quickly.

Start a tradition of getting together after the hunt to share stories over a noontime meal or at the end of the day, seated around a glowing campfire. These gatherings of families and friends keep the heritage of hunting alive.

The appeal of hunting is often hard to explain to the non-hunter. It's as much about culture and upbringing, as it is an invigorating outdoors sport.

Hunting is not about who kills the biggest gobbler, or takes the season limit, but the camaraderie that hunters share, and their love for wild lands and nature's diversity. Deep down in our hearts we know what we enjoy about hunting... what keeps us coming back to the spring woods each



Nathan Saugster photo

year to chase toms.

It's easy for an experienced turkey hunter to become a mentor. Turkey hunting skills can easily be passed on when the caller and shooter are seated side by side at the base of a tree or in a blind.

For the beginner there's no better advantage than having a coach and teacher within whispering distance. A new hunter will quickly learn when to move and when

to stay still, when to call and when to get ready to shoot.

You'll work as a team and share in the rewards.

For the beginner there's no moment quite like walking into camp, carrying that first gobbler.

As a mentor there's no greater feeling than knowing you introduced a friend or family member to the magic of spring turkey hunting. You will always share memories of spring mornings of the past, and hopes for spring mornings to come.

— Dr. Jonathan Gassett

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

"To conserve and enhance fish and wildlife resources and provide opportunity for hunting, fishing, trapping, boating and other wildlife related activities."

WHO WE ARE

Created as the Kentucky Game and Fish Commission on March 12, 1912, the agency known today as the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources was established in its present form by the Kentucky General Assembly in 1944. An agency of the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet, the department today has about 500 full-time employees.

WHAT WE DO

Through the decades the department's role has expanded to include managing both game and non-game fish and wildlife resources, creating regulations, enforcing wildlife and boating laws, hatching, rearing and stocking fish, assisting landowners

with fish and wildlife habitat improvement, educating youth about the importance of fish and wildlife and their habitats, stream restoration, passing on the heritage of archery and shooting sports, buying land for public use, and building boat ramps for angler access to the state's public waterways.

The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission, a nine-member citizens board selected by licensed hunters, boaters and anglers, and appointed by the Governor, meets quarterly in Frankfort to make policy decisions. With input from the agency's director, program administrators and staff biologists, the Commission adopts regulations that must meet with the approval of the Kentucky General Assembly.

OUR BUDGET

The department's operating budget for Fiscal Year 2013 is \$48.6 million.

Revenue sources are: hunting and fishing licenses (51%); boat registration fees (7%); federal program funds (34%); program income (3%); interest income, tax check-off donations, and other miscellaneous receipts (5%).

Budgeted expenditures are: capital projects and land acquisitions (4%), administration (11%), wildlife (28%), fisheries (18%), information and education (12%), and law enforcement (27%).

The department receives no tax dollars from the state's General Fund, and manages fish and wildlife for all citizens.

March - June 2013



KENTUCKY SPRING HUNTING GUIDE

Dave Baker photo

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This is a summary of hunting laws, intended solely for informational use. It is not a reprint of any referenced statute or regulation. Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) or Kentucky Administrative Regulations (KAR) can be viewed at www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/frntpage.htm

OTHER GUIDES AVAILABLE

Informational guides are also produced for fishing and boating, fall hunting and trapping, waterfowl and other migratory bird hunting (dove, wood duck, teal, woodcock, snipe and crow). These guides are available free wherever licenses are sold and are posted online at fw.ky.gov.

NEW THIS YEAR

Changes from last season are printed in bright blue throughout this guide to assist you in noticing those changes.

- Wild pigs may not be hunted on Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area from March 1 – September 6, 2013.
- .25 caliber airguns may be used to hunt squirrels.

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WILD TURKEY HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	Youth-Only	General Season
Turkey	April 6-7	April 13 - May 5

Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

FEEDING OF WILDLIFE

March 1 through May 31, it is illegal to feed wildlife with grain, seed or manufactured animal feed outside the curtilage of the home (the area immediately surrounding a home or group of homes). This regulation does not apply to normal agricultural practices or food plots, or municipal areas not open to legal hunting or trapping.

PRE-SEASON CALLING

Beginning March 1, and until the

opening of the youth-only and general spring seasons, it is illegal to mimic the sound of a turkey in an area open to hunting if turkeys are reasonably expected to be present. However, locating turkeys with an owl, crow, coyote, or woodpecker call is permitted when scouting.

SEASONS

Both the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons are open statewide. The two-day youth-only hunting weekend opens on the first Saturday in April. The general season opens on the Saturday closest to April 15 and lasts 23 days. A hunting license and spring tur-

key permit is required unless the hunter is license exempt. See page 7 for license and permit requirements.

YOUTH-ONLY SEASON

The youth-only hunting weekend is open to hunters 15 years of age or younger, but youth hunting licenses and permits are valid for the entire license year if they are purchased before the youth's 16th birthday. Youth who hunt turkeys at any time with a shotgun must be accompanied by an adult who is at least 18 years old. The adult must remain in position to take immediate control of the youth's shotgun at all times. Adults who accompany youth hunters during the youth-only season are not required to have a hunting license or turkey permit. All youth hunters must use their social security number when telechecking a turkey.

SPRING SEASON BAG LIMITS

A hunter may take a male turkey or a turkey with a visible beard. No more than one (1) bird may be taken per day. No more than two (2) birds may be taken per spring season. Any combination of male turkeys, or female turkeys with visible beards, may be included in this two-bird season limit. Turkeys taken by youth during the youth-only season count toward the spring turkey bag limit.

TELECHECK

All harvested turkeys must be logged and telechecked as outlined on pages 11-12.

CALLER / ASSISTANT

Anyone may call turkeys, or assist in the hunt. Callers and assistants don't have to possess hunting licenses or turkey permits, and may carry equipment while in the field.

HUNTER ORANGE

Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange clothing during the spring turkey seasons. However, wearing an article of hunter orange clothing

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

It is illegal for any person to take game with equipment that is contrary to the restrictions outlined in this guide. Hunters may only use the following to take turkeys during the spring seasons:

- Breech-loading or muzzle-loading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge and no smaller than 20-gauge.
- Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).
- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 4.
- Longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows, of any draw weight (no minimum).
- Crossbows, of any draw weight (no minimum), with a working safety.
- Broadheads at least 7/8" wide, which aren't barbed, chemically-treated, or have attachments that contain chemicals.

PROHIBITED HUNTING METHODS

A person hunting wild turkeys shall not:

- Use a dog during the spring season.
- Hunt from a boat, or from any type of vehicle unless prescribed by regulation (see "Hunters with Physical Disabilities" on page 11).
- Take a roosting turkey (place where a turkey spends the night).
- Use or possess an electronic or digital calling device.
- Use live decoys.
- Hunt over bait. An area is considered baited until 30 days after the bait has been removed. An area where grain, feed or other substances exist as the result of bona fide agricultural practice or manipulating a crop for a wildlife management purpose is legal for turkey hunting.

when carrying a harvested turkey is a simple and effective way to help prevent hunting accidents that can occur when a hunter is mistaken for game.

POSSESSION OF LIVE WILD TURKEYS and EGGS / RELEASE OF WILD TURKEYS

Due to the potential for spread of

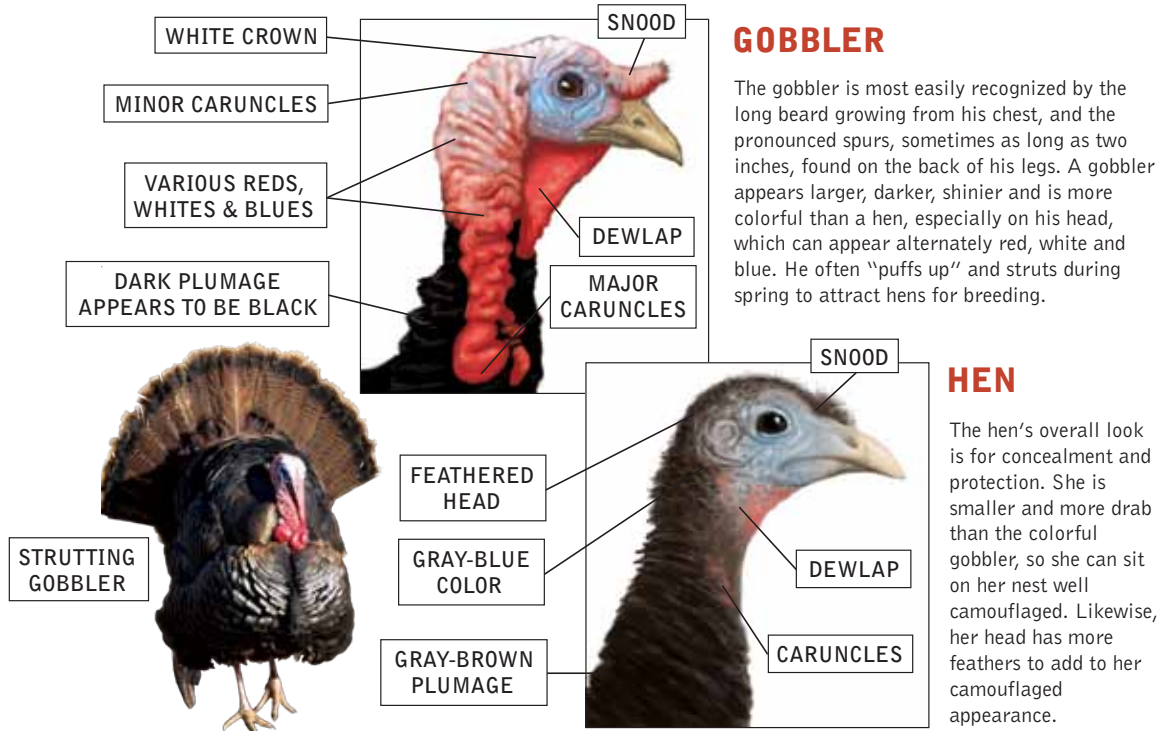
disease and genetic pollution, it is illegal to possess live wild turkeys. For the same reasons, domestic or pen-raised turkeys should not be released into the wild. It is also illegal to possess or attempt to hatch wild turkey eggs. It is further recommended that turkeys not be artificially fed during any time of the year. Providing standing corn, wheat or clover

patches is a much better alternative.

TAIL FANS, SPURS and BEARDS

Inedible parts from harvested wild turkeys, including tail fans, beards and spurs, may only be bought from or sold to licensed taxidermists. This includes online auctions and direct sales on web-sites.

GOBBLER / HEN IDENTIFICATION



Based on information and graphics from the National Wild Turkey Federation website, which can be viewed at www.nwtf.org.

TURKEY HUNTING SAFETY TIPS

- Don't stalk a turkey. The chances of getting close enough for a shot are slim, and odds of becoming involved in an accident increase.
- Eliminate the colors red, white and blue from your turkey hunting outfit. Red or white are the colors hunters are looking for when differentiating a gobbler's head from the hen's grayish-blue head. These colors not only put you in danger, but they can be seen by turkeys as well.
- Don't move, wave or make turkey sounds to alert another hunter to your presence. A quick movement may draw fire. Yell in a loud voice "Hey, I'm here," and remain hidden.
- Be particularly careful when using a gobbler call. The sound and motion may attract other hunters, and could draw fire.
- When selecting your calling position, sit at the base of a large tree, if one is available, to protect your torso and head. Position yourself so you can see 180 degrees in front of you.
- Never shoot at a sound or movement. Be 100 percent sure of your target. Assume that every sound you hear is made by another hunter.
- When hunting with a turkey decoy, place the decoy about 20 yards from your calling position. To be safe you need a clear line of sight beyond the decoy of at least 80 yards. This will enable you to see any approaching hunter and keep you at a safe distance if another hunter were to shoot at your decoy.
- Keep your shotgun unloaded when not in the field, and open the action or unload your shotgun when climbing a steep hill, stepping over low fence wire, or fording a creek.
- After bagging a turkey, put on an article of hunter orange while carrying the bird out of the field.

SQUIRREL HUNTING

SPRING HUNTING SEASON

SPECIES	Spring Season	Bag Limit
Squirrel	May 18-June 21	Daily limit is 6 squirrels; possession limit is 12

Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

Hunters may only use the following equipment to take squirrels during the spring season:

- Rifles that shoot rimfire ammunition, or .22 caliber handguns.
- Muzzle-loading or breechloading shotguns no larger than 10-gauge.

Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in magazine and one in chamber).

- Lead or non-toxic shot no larger than number 2.
- Muzzle-loading rifles.
- Archery or crossbow equipment.
- Pellets fired from .177, .20, .22 or .25 caliber airguns.

- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.

PROHIBITED METHODS OF TAKING SQUIRRELS

- Trapping squirrels during the spring season, or hunting squirrels at any time with slingshots or blowguns is prohibited

COYOTES and OTHER WILDLIFE

HUNTING and TRAPPING SEASONS

SPECIES	Seasons and Bag Limits
Coyote, Groundhog & Wild Pig	Year-round, no bag limit. Hunting license required, unless exempt

Shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset.
Hunters may be in the field before and after shooting hours.

COYOTE / GROUNDHOG

- Coyotes may not be hunted at night. Hand or mouth-operated calls and electronic calls that imitate wounded prey or coyote calls are legal.
- It is legal to hunt coyotes over animal carcasses.
- Groundhogs may be trapped year-round.

- Coyotes may only be trapped during furbearer trapping season.

WILD PIG

Wild pigs may not be hunted from March 1 –September 6, 2013 on the Big South Fork National River & Recreation Area.

Wild pigs are here because of

LEGAL EQUIPMENT

Hunters may only use the following to take coyotes, wild pigs, groundhogs, and exotic species of wildlife:

- Muzzle-loading rifle, modern rifle, or handgun of any caliber, with no restriction on magazine capacity.
- Shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, shooting any size lead or non-toxic shot, including buckshot. Breech-loading shotguns must be plugged to hold a maximum of three shells (two in the magazine and one in the chamber).
- Archery and crossbow equipment.
- Dogs may be used to aid in the hunt.
- Falconry (Sept. 1 – March 30).

criminal releases. They out-compete native wildlife for food, damage crops, and carry diseases. Landowners are strongly encouraged to work with the department to remove wild pigs from their property. Trapping, which is legal year-round, is the most effective method of removal.

Tell your local conservation officer about the use of snares and/or corral traps on your property. Traps and snares should be tagged and checked in accordance with trapping regulations.

Wild pigs must be killed at the trap site, and not released. It is illegal to possess, sell or transport wild pigs in Kentucky. Report sightings, illegal activities related to wild pigs, and get advice on effective control by calling Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549.

OTHER WILDLIFE

BIRDS

- Some species of exotic, non-native birds (pheasant, chukar, and Eurasian collared) dove may be hunted year-round, with no hunting license required and no bag limit.
- English sparrows and starlings may be hunted year-round, with no bag limit, but a hunting license is required, unless license exempt.
- However, pheasants released during quota hunts are not open to year-round hunting on Green River Lake WMA, Yellowbank WMA and Clay WMA.
- All birds of prey and native songbirds are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

HOOFED STOCK (OTHER THAN WHITE-TAILED DEER and ELK)

- Exotic, non-native hooved stock may be hunted year-round
- No license required.
- No bag limit or checking requirement.
- Fallow deer on Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area are not open to year-round hunting.

MAMMALS and OTHER WILDLIFE

- The spotted skunk, a rare species found in eastern Kentucky, is a protected species and may not be taken.
- All threatened or endangered species are protected under state and federal laws and may not be taken.

PUBLIC LAND HUNTING

KENTUCKY FISH and WILDLIFE PROPERTIES

This page lists wildlife management areas (WMAs) where special regulations are in effect for the spring turkey and squirrel seasons. If you plan to hunt on any of these areas, make note of the differences from statewide regulations.

When hunting on WMAs respect the boundaries of adjoining private lands, be courteous, don't trespass, and keep safety in mind.

Horseback riding on WMAs is prohibited during firearms seasons for turkeys.

All department-owned or managed WMAs are open under statewide regulations for the spring turkey and squirrel hunting seasons, with the following exceptions:

BARREN RIVER LAKE WMA **8,790 acres** **Barren and Allen counties**

All areas are open under statewide regulations for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons and spring

squirrel season, with one exception. On the Peninsula Unit (including Narrows, Goose and Grass Islands), modern (breech-loading) firearms may not be used during any season.

HIGGINSON-HENRY WMA **5,450 acres, Union County**

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons, but turkey hunters may only use archery gear and crossbows (with hunting methods exemption permit). Open for spring squirrel season under statewide regulations.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY WMA and STATE NATURAL AREA **1,898 acres, Livingston County**

Open for the youth-only turkey season. Open to youth hunters only during the general spring turkey season. Open for spring squirrel season.

OTTER CREEK OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA **2,221 acres, Meade County**

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey season, except that hunting ends at 12 noon each day. Open for spring squirrel season, except hunters shall not use rifles, or ball or slug ammunition.

PEABODY WMA **46,429 acres, Ohio, Hopkins and Muhlenberg counties**

A Peabody WMA user permit (\$15) is required for anyone 16 years of age and older entering the property for any recreational purpose.

PIONEER WEAPONS WMA **7,731 acres** **Bath and Menifee counties**

Open for the youth-only and general spring turkey seasons and spring squirrel season, except hunters shall not use modern (breech-loading) firearms, and in-line muzzleloading firearms. Hunters may only use open or iron sights on any weapon.

ROBINSON FOREST WMA
12,185 acres**Breathitt, Knott and Perry counties**

The main block of this WMA is closed to all turkey and squirrel hunting. The remainder of the WMA is open for the youth-only and general spring tur-

key seasons and spring squirrel season.

WEST KENTUCKY WMA
6,562 acres, McCracken County

All tracts are open for the youth-only turkey season. Call (270) 488-3233 to find out which tracts are open for the

general spring turkey season and spring squirrel season. Squirrel hunters shall not use rifles, or ball or slug ammunition. Tract 6 is closed to vehicular traffic Feb. 1 – March 30.

OTHER AREAS

The following lands are not owned or managed by Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. Hunting dates may differ from the statewide seasons. Advanced registration to hunt may be required. Contact the appropriate agency for details. Some areas require paper licenses and have more restrictive hunter education age requirements.

Seasons on military installations are subject to change based on training exercises and other activities. Some areas offer “bonus” birds that do not count against the statewide season bag limit, but hunters must possess a valid hunting license and turkey permit to participate. Active duty military may be license-exempt on some areas.

BLUE GRASS ARMY DEPOT
14,517 acres, Madison County

Richmond, KY 40475-5010

Application period for spring turkey hunts is July of the previous year. For information contact Office of Morale, Welfare & Recreation by calling (859) 779-6464 or 779-6403. Background check required if selected. Birds taken are bonus birds. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted.

CLARKS RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
9,500 acres, Graves, Marshall and McCracken counties

(270) 527-5770

P.O. Box 89, Benton, KY 42025

Open under statewide regulations

for spring squirrel and turkey seasons, except squirrel hunters who hunt with shotguns must use non-toxic shot. No bonus birds. Must use statewide turkey permit. Refuge user permit required.

FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION
104,625 acres (36,113 acres in Kentucky)

(270) 798-2175

Outdoor Recreation Branch, Bldg. 6645, 101st Airborne Div. Rd., Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000

Post permit required. Birds taken are bonus birds. Call for dates. Kentucky hunters may hunt on both the Kentucky and Tennessee portions of the base. No spring squirrel hunting. All ages must have hunter education card. Temporary hunter education exemption permit not accepted. All shotguns and muzzleloaders used while hunting on Fort Campbell must be registered before hunters go afield.

FORT KNOX MILITARY RESERVATION
108,618 acres
Bullitt, Meade and Hardin counties

(502) 624-7311

Post permit required. Turkeys taken are bonus birds. Contact Ft. Knox for dates by calling (502) 624-7311, or visit their website at: www.knox.army.mil/fw

Spring squirrel hunting permitted. Ages 60 and under must have hunter education card, or hunter education exemption permit.

HIDDEN VALLEY TRAINING AREA
551 acres, Powell County

Closed to all turkey hunting (including youth-only and general spring turkey season). Closed to spring squirrel season.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (LBL) NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

170,000 acres (107,594 acres in Kentucky)

(270) 924-2065

100 Van Morgan Drive

Golden Pond, KY 42211-9001

Area user permit required. Hunters shall take no more than one (1) turkey with a visible beard. No bonus birds. Must use statewide turkey permit. Spring squirrel hunting permitted. Call LBL for dates.

REELFOOT NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

2,043 acres, Fulton County

(731) 538-2481

4343 Hwy. 157, Union City, TN 38261

Quota hunts early April by advance application. No bonus birds. No spring squirrel hunting.

Maps and information

For maps and information on WMAs and other public hunting areas, go online to fw.ky.gov. Then click Maps and Online Services.

Watch Tim Farmer on “Kentucky Afield”

KET 1: Sat., 8:30 p.m. ET/7:30 CT and Sun., 4:30 p.m. ET/3:30 CT.

Watch online at youtube.com/kyafiel.



GENERAL INFORMATION

LICENSES and PERMITS

All turkey hunters, unless license exempt, are required to purchase and carry with them in the field proof of purchasing an annual Kentucky hunting license and spring turkey permit.

Short-term (1- or 5-day) hunting licenses are not valid for turkey hunting.

License and permit fees are listed on page 10.

All squirrel hunters, unless license exempt, are required to possess a Kentucky hunting license.

Each hunter must have his or her own license or permit. Paper licenses and permits must be signed and filled out before going afield. Licenses, permits, and license authorization numbers are non-transferable.

Lose your license? Replacement licenses can be printed from the department's website fw.ky.gov at no cost.

RESIDENTS

A Kentucky resident is any person who has established permanent domicile and legal residence and has resided in Kentucky for 30 days prior to purchasing a license.

NONRESIDENTS

Those who do not meet the definition of a Kentucky resident are required to purchase nonresident licenses and permits. A nonresident who owns land in Kentucky must buy nonresident licenses and permits.

YOUTH

Persons under 12 years of age who hunt any species must be accompanied by an adult, if they have not passed a hunter education course. Both resident and nonresident hunters under the age

of 12 are license and permit exempt.

Once a hunter becomes 12 years old, he or she must be licensed, unless license exempt.

Persons 15 years of age and under who hunt turkeys with a firearm must be accompanied by an adult. A youth hunting license shall not be issued without the written permission of a parent or guardian, or person having custody of the youth hunter, who shall sign the youth hunter's license to signify consent.

Resident and nonresident hunters ages 12-15 are eligible to purchase discounted youth licenses and permits, valid for the entire license year, if purchased before the youth's 16th birthday. Once a hunter turns 16 years of age, he or she is no longer eligible to buy youth hunting licenses and permits, or partici-

RESIDENT SENIOR AND DISABLED LICENSES

The following are eligible to purchase the \$5 Senior/Disability License (which includes the same license and permits as the Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits):

- Kentucky residents 65 years of age or older.
- Kentucky residents certified totally and permanently disabled by the Federal Social Security Administration, a state Workers Compensation Board, the Kentucky Teacher Retirement System or the United States Railroad Retirement Board.
- Kentucky resident employees of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, declared totally and permanently disabled by a recognized authority.
- Kentucky resident veterans at least 50% disabled as the result of a service-connected disability.

Seniors need only show proof of age and residency to purchase this license. Persons with disabilities listed above must first obtain a disability authorization card from Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

To obtain a disability license authorization card:

If your disability is through the:

- Federal Social Security Administration: Contact your local Social Security office and request a form showing

your name, address, Social Security number and date of birth, which states that you are disabled and drawing benefits. Send form to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.

- Veteran's Administration: Contact your local VA office and request a letter that verifies you are at least 50% disabled as a result of a service-connected disability. Send letter to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife.
- If your disability is through other state or federal agencies call 1-800-858-1549.

Once the proper documentation is processed, applicants will receive their authorization card by mail. The authorization card is not a license. It must be presented to the license seller, or the authorization number entered online, at the time of purchase.

License vendors cannot sell a disability license using an expired authorization card. Senior and Disability Combination Licenses are valid through the end of February each year. If you lose your card, contact Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for a replacement.

To send disability paperwork to the department:

By mail: KDFWR Disability License #1 Sportsman's Lane Frankfort, KY 40601. By FAX: (502) 564-9845.

pate in youth-only seasons.

STUDENTS

Anyone enrolled for at least six (6) months in an educational institution as a full-time student is considered a resident, and therefore eligible to purchase resident licenses and permits.

RESIDENT LANDOWNERS, TENANTS and THEIR FAMILIES

The following persons are license-exempt, not required to purchase licenses or permits:

- Kentucky resident owners of farmlands, their spouses and dependent children hunting upon their own farmlands.
- Tenants, their spouses and dependent children hunting on farmlands where they reside and work. But, hunting licenses and permits are required if they hunt somewhere other than their own property or the property where they reside and work.

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces

on permanent assignment in Kentucky are considered residents and are eligible to purchase resident licenses and permits.

Hidden Valley Training Area, a 551-acre Kentucky National Guard property in Powell County, is closed to turkey hunting during all seasons and is closed to spring squirrel hunting.

Kentucky residents on leave for more than three days who carry military identification and leave papers that verify their status may hunt or fish in Kentucky without licenses or permits.

HOW TO BUY LICENSES and PERMITS

It is the hunter's responsibility to know what type of license/permit is needed.

When buying a license/permit the hunter's date of birth and Social Security number must be provided.

If you have licensing questions call Kentucky Fish and Wildlife at 1-800-858-1549, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

while hunting. Both the authorization number and paper license are valid for the license year.

ONLINE

Licenses/permits can be purchased at fw.ky.gov.

Hunters purchasing licenses/permits online must pay with a Visa,

Mastercard or Discover card, or a Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Gift Certificate. Gift Certificates are available only at fw.ky.gov.

While hunting, a computer print out of their license/permit and picture ID must be carried. Hunters who buy licenses/permits online will not be mailed a paper license/permit.

IN PERSON

Licenses/permits can be purchased throughout the state at about 900 locations, including country stores, some county court clerk offices, local hunting and fishing businesses, and some chain stores that sell outdoor sporting goods.

A list of license vendors can be viewed at fw.ky.gov.

BY PHONE

Licenses/permits can be purchased over the telephone 24 hours a day, by calling toll-free at 1-877-598-2401. All licenses/permits, except a disability license, elk lottery application and youth licenses/permits, can be purchased by telephone.

Hunters purchasing licenses/permits by phone will be charged a small fee, and must pay with a Visa, Mastercard, or Discover card, or an e-check. Hunters will be issued an authorization number which serves as the license/permit.

If requested, a paper license/permit (except short-term licenses) will be mailed to the hunter. The paper license must be filled out and signed by the hunter.

The authorization number and a picture ID must be carried in the field

Kentucky Afield

Makes hunting easier.

Ducks fly overhead at
7:52 a.m.,
8:37 a.m.
and
9:13 a.m.
Be ready.

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1-800-858-1549
or go to fw.ky.gov

WHICH LICENSE OR PERMIT DO I NEED?

The tables below provide a quick overview of current licensing requirements. See the rest of this section for exemptions and complete residency, li-

censing and hunter education requirements. All elk and bear hunting requirements are explained in the fall Hunting & Trapping Guide available in July.

Also: See page 7 for Senior/Disabled License eligibility.

NOTE: Licenses and permits for the species below are not required for kids under the age of 12.

KENTUCKY RESIDENTS	Ages 12-15	Ages 16-64	Ages 65 and over OR Disabled
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Statewide Deer Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Fall Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License† + Spring Turkey Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License	Senior/Disabled License
Trapping	Annual Youth Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License	Annual or Landowner/Tenant Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird or Kentucky Waterfowl Permit†	Senior/Disabled License
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual† or 1-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Waterfowl Permit† + Federal Duck Stamp	Senior/Disabled License + Federal Duck Stamp

NONRESIDENTS (must buy nonresident licenses/permits)	Ages 12-15	Ages 16 and over
Deer	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Deer Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Statewide Deer Permit
Fall Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Fall Turkey Permit
Spring Turkey	Youth Hunting License* + Youth Turkey Permit*	Annual Hunting License + Spring Turkey Permit
Small Game & Furbearer	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License
Trapping	Annual Trapping License	Annual Trapping License
Migratory Birds (dove, snipe, woodcock, moorhens, rails, gallinules)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Migratory Bird or Kentucky Waterfowl Permit
Waterfowl (ducks, geese, coots and mergansers)	Youth Hunting License*	Annual, 1-Day or 5-Day Hunting License + Kentucky Waterfowl Permit + Federal Duck Stamp

*Included in Youth Sportsman's License

†Included in Resident Sportsman's License

Q: Does a nonresident who owns land in Kentucky have to buy nonresident licenses and permits?

A: Yes. **All** nonresidents must purchase nonresident licenses and permits.

Other laws still apply!

All hunters, including those who are license-exempt or eligible to purchase reduced-price licenses, must abide by all other regulations as outlined in this guide.

Q: Can more than one Youth Turkey Permit be purchased?

A: Yes. Multiple Youth Turkey Permits may be purchased, but season bag limits must be followed.

LICENSE and PERMIT FEES

	LICENSE / PERMIT	Resident	Nonresident
LICENSES	Annual Fishing	\$20.00	\$50.00
	Joint Husband/Wife Annual Fishing	\$36.00	Not available
	1-Day Fishing	\$7.00	\$10.00
	Nonresident 7-Day Fishing	Not available	\$30.00
	Nonresident 15-Day Fishing	Not available	\$40.00
	Trout Permit	\$10.00	
	Annual Hunting	\$20.00	\$130.00
	1-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	\$7.00	\$10.00
	5-Day Hunting (not valid for deer, elk, turkey or bear)	Not available	\$40.00
	Annual Youth Hunting (ages 12-15 only)	\$5.00	
	Shooting Preserve License (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5.00	
	Annual Trapping	\$20.00	\$130.00
	Annual Landowner/Tenant Trapping	\$10.00	Not available
	Annual Youth (ages 12-15) Trapping	\$5.00	Not available
COMBO LICENSES	Annual Combination Hunting/Fishing	\$30.00	Not available
	Senior/Disabled Combination Hunting/Fishing* (includes same license and permits as Resident Sportsman's License, plus additional deer permits.)	\$5.00	Not available
	Sportsman's License* (Includes combination hunting/fishing, statewide deer permit, spring and fall turkey permits, state waterfowl permit and trout permit.)	\$95.00	Not available
	Youth (ages 12-15) Sportsman's License* (Includes youth hunting license, youth deer permit and youth turkey permit.)	\$25.00	
DEER	Statewide Deer Permit (two deer)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Youth (ages 12-15) Deer Permit (one deer)	\$10.00	
	Additional Deer Permit (two deer)	\$15.00	
BIRDS	Spring Turkey Permit (statewide) (two turkeys)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Youth (ages 12-15) Turkey Permit (one turkey, spring or fall)	\$10.00	
	Fall Turkey Permit (statewide)(four turkeys)	\$30.00	\$60.00
	Kentucky Waterfowl Permit	\$15.00	
	Migratory Bird Permit	\$10.00	
	Federal Duck Stamp (available at post offices and online at www.duckstamp.com)	\$15.00	
ELK	Elk Lottery Application (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10.00	
	Youth WMA Elk Lottery (deadline April 30; available at fw.ky.gov only)	\$10.00	
	Elk Quota Hunt Permit (if drawn)	\$30.00	\$365.00
	Out-of-Zone Elk Permit	\$30.00	\$365.00
AREAS	Peabody WMA User Permit	\$15.00	
	Land Between the Lakes (LBL) Hunter Use Permit	\$20.00	
	Otter Creek ORA Admission Fees (per person) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$3.00, annual: \$30.00, children under 12: free.	
	Otter Creek ORA Special Activity Fees (per person, for use of horse trails, mountain bike trails and shooting range) (available online at fw.ky.gov)	Daily: \$7.00, annual: \$70.00	
OTHER	Bear Permit	\$30.00	Not available
	Temporary Hunter Education Exemption Permit (available online at fw.ky.gov only)	\$5.00	

*Peabody, LBL and Otter Creek permits, elk lottery application, elk quota hunt permit, out-of-zone elk permit, additional deer permit, bear permit, federal duck stamp and trapping license not included.

Kentucky's license year begins March 1 and continues through the last day of February. New licenses are required annually. A 1-day or 5-day hunting license is valid only for the period shown on license.

Resident and nonresident youth under the age of 12 are not required to purchase licenses or permits (except the elk lottery application).

OTHER HUNTING REGULATIONS

HUNTER EDUCATION

All hunters, if required to purchase a Kentucky hunting license and born on or after January 1, 1975, must carry a valid hunter education course completion card in the field while hunting. License-exempt hunters are not required to comply with hunter education laws.

Hunter education cards obtained from other states are valid in Kentucky.

Hunter education courses are held statewide throughout the year. A course schedule is available at fw.ky.gov or by calling 1-800-858-1549. Children cannot take the hunter education test until they are nine years old.

APPRENTICE HUNTING OPPORTUNITY

Persons new to hunting who have not taken the hunter education course may buy a one-time temporary hunter education exemption permit for \$5 online at fw.ky.gov.

This apprentice hunting opportunity allows new hunters in Kentucky to hunt for up to one year (from date of purchase) without a hunter education card. The permit requires its holder to hunt with a licensed, adult hunter (at least 18 years old) who meets the hunter education requirement. The adult shall be in a position to take immediate control of the exempted hunter's bow or firearm at all times while hunting. This law applies even if the exempted hunter is an adult.

After the hunter education exemption permit expires, the hunter is no longer exempt and must successfully complete a hunter education course. The temporary hunter education exemption permit is valid only in Kentucky, and is not accepted at Blue Grass Army Depot or Fort Campbell.

Resident landowners, spouses, and dependent children, tenants, their spouses and their dependent children are only hunter education exempt on property they own, or the property where they reside and work. When hunting elsewhere, they must comply with Kentucky's hunter education law.

A bowhunter not in possession of a firearm while hunting may carry a valid National Bowhunter Education Program course completion card instead of the hunter education card.

LANDOWNER PERMISSION

A person shall not enter upon the lands of another to hunt, trap or fish without the oral or written permission of the landowner, tenant or person who has authority to grant permission. Those who fail to obtain permission are subject to arrest and prosecution.

Railroad tracks and rights of way are privately owned property and permission to hunt, trap or fish must be obtained prior to entry.

A hunter may not retrieve game from another person's land without the landowner's permission.

HUNTERS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

The department grants exemptions to hunters with certain physical disabilities.

- To use a stationary vehicle as a hunting platform.
- To hunt with a crossbow.
- Persons with qualifying physical disabilities must first have an exemption form completed and signed by a licensed physician.
- Hunting Methods Exemption forms are available online at fw.ky.gov or by calling the department at 1-800-858-1549.
- The completed exemption form serves as

Youth supervision

Adults must accompany hunters ages 15 and under who hunt turkeys with a shotgun. The adult shall remain in a position to take immediate control of the youth's firearm.

the hunter's exemption permit. It should not be returned to the department.

- Persons who obtain an exemption are required to have the appropriate hunting license and permits
- Hunters must carry the signed exemption form with their hunting license and permits while in the field.

REPORT GAME LAW VIOLATIONS

Anyone may report wildlife law violators anonymously by calling

1-800-25-ALERT (1-800-252-5378). Calls come in to dispatchers at Kentucky Fish and Wildlife headquarters in Frankfort, who relay the information to conservation officers in the field.

CONCEALED CARRY DEADLY WEAPONS PERMITS

Anyone who may legally possess firearms may carry firearms while hunting, but only persons with valid concealed carry deadly weapon permits may carry their firearms concealed.

CONVICTED FELONS

A person convicted of a felony is prohibited from possessing or hunting with a firearm in Kentucky. The prohibition on handguns applies to those convicted after Jan. 1, 1975. The prohibition on other firearms applies to those convicted after July 15, 1994. (See KRS 527.040 for details.)

HARVEST LOG, TELECHECK and CARCASS TAG

HARVEST LOG

All successful turkey hunters, including those who are license exempt, must fill out a harvest log for each turkey they harvest.

Information that must be written

on the harvest log includes the species of animal taken, date, county of harvest, sex of the animal and telecheck confirmation number.

Hunters shall record this information as soon as the bird is taken and before it is moved.

fore it is moved.

A harvest log is on the back of any paper license or permit. Hunters may also print a harvest log off the department's website at fw.ky.gov. Click on the yellow icon "Purchase Licenses Here,"

then “Printable Harvest Log.”

License exempt hunters, youth under 12 years of age, and those who only have a license authorization number, may create their own harvest log by writing the information on a piece of paper or note card.

Hunters must have the completed harvest log in their possession whenever afield during the current season (KAR 2:140).

TELECHECK

Telecheck is a toll-free, automated phone-in check system.

Checking your turkey takes about five minutes. Entering false information is unlawful. All harvested turkeys must be telechecked by midnight on the same day that they are taken. All youth hunters must use their social security number when telechecking a turkey.

Additionally, hunters may check in

Telecheck:

**1-800-CHK-GAME
(1-800-245-4263)**

online at fw.ky.gov.

Telecheck is in service 24 hours a day while hunting seasons are open. Listen to each question carefully and provide the requested information using the keypad on any touch tone phone.

Hunters will be asked:

- Their Social Security number.
- The code for the county in which the turkey was taken.
- What animal and sex.
- Type of hunting equipment used.
- Private or public land.
- Type of license used, and if the caller is a landowner.

Once the harvest information has

been entered correctly, the caller will be asked to hold while the system submits the survey information. Then the hunter will be given a confirmation number which is proof that the harvested turkey was legally reported. This number must be recorded on the hunter's log and retained throughout the season.

CARCASS TAG

- Must be attached to any harvested turkey that leaves the hunter's possession.
- Meat processors and taxidermists are prohibited by law from accepting any harvested turkey or parts of a harvested turkey without a carcass tag attached.
- Must include hunter's name, phone number and telecheck confirmation number.

KENTUCKY COUNTY CODE NUMBERS FOR TELECHECK

001	Adair	025	Clark	049	Harrison	073	McCracken	097	Perry
002	Allen	026	Clay	050	Hart	074	McCreary	098	Pike
003	Anderson	027	Clinton	051	Henderson	075	McLean	099	Powell
004	Ballard	028	Crittenden	052	Henry	076	Madison	100	Pulaski
005	Barren	029	Cumberland	053	Hickman	077	Magoffin	101	Robertson
006	Bath	030	Daviess	054	Hopkins	078	Marion	102	Rockcastle
007	Bell	031	Edmonson	055	Jackson	079	Marshall	103	Rowan
008	Boone	032	Elliott	056	Jefferson	080	Martin	104	Russell
009	Bourbon	033	Estill	057	Jessamine	081	Mason	105	Scott
010	Boyd	034	Fayette	058	Johnson	082	Meade	106	Shelby
011	Boyle	035	Fleming	059	Kenton	083	Menifee	107	Simpson
012	Bracken	036	Floyd	060	Knott	084	Mercer	108	Spencer
013	Breathitt	037	Franklin	061	Knox	085	Metcalf	109	Taylor
014	Breckinridge	038	Fulton	062	LaRue	086	Monroe	110	Todd
015	Bullitt	039	Gallatin	063	Laurel	087	Montgomery	111	Trigg
016	Butler	040	Garrard	064	Lawrence	088	Morgan	112	Trimble
017	Caldwell	041	Grant	065	Lee	089	Muhlenberg	113	Union
018	Calloway	042	Graves	066	Leslie	090	Nelson	114	Warren
019	Campbell	043	Grayson	067	Letcher	091	Nicholas	115	Washington
020	Carlisle	044	Green	068	Lewis	092	Ohio	116	Wayne
021	Carroll	045	Greenup	069	Lincoln	093	Oldham	117	Webster
022	Carter	046	Hancock	070	Livingston	094	Owen	118	Whitley
023	Casey	047	Hardin	071	Logan	095	Owsley	119	Wolfe
024	Christian	048	Harlan	072	Lyon	096	Pendleton	120	Woodford